

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~manufacturing~~ method of manufacturing a honeycomb structural body having a ~~with a~~ sealing material layer ~~formed~~ on a peripheral portion of a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, comprising:

preparing a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;

~~a sealing material applying step of~~ applying a paste-like sealing material, which is a raw material of said sealing material layer, onto a circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member; ~~and~~

~~a scraping step of~~ fitting a plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper, which is configured to ~~to~~ [[can]] be brought into contact with the circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member so as to slide thereon, to said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member; ~~and~~

moving said ring-shaped scraper in ~~in~~ [[the]] a length direction of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, thereby expanding the paste-like sealing material applied on to the circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member so as to spread over the entire circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The manufacturing method according to claim 1, ~~which employs a~~ wherein the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member ~~having~~ has a cross-sectional shape perpendicular to the length direction ~~that~~ which is other than a round shape.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A sealing material for forming ~~used upon manufacturing a honeycomb structural body with a sealing material layer formed on a peripheral portion of a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, comprising:~~

an inorganic filler; and

an inorganic binder, wherein said inorganic filler has an aspect ratio in a range from 1.01 to 10.00.

Claim 5 (New): The method according to claim 1, further comprising disposing a center member made from a material that is softer than the material of said pillar-shaped porous honey comb member inside of said plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper.

Claim 6 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper is moved to reciprocate in said length direction.

Claim 7 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein said moving of said plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper in the length direction of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member is carried out repeatedly.

Claim 8 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein a viscosity of said paste-like sealing material is in a range from 15 to 45 Pa·s.

Claim 9 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein said paste-like sealing material comprises an inorganic filler and an inorganic binder, and said inorganic filler has an aspect ratio in a range from 1.01 to 10.00.